

Uniform Division

Goals for 2006

- Continue to develop and implement enhanced firearms training for first responders in rapid response situations.
- Implement a Spanish course for officers in our training curriculum intended to address the increasing need to respond to those Spanish speaking citizens in our community. A pilot class is scheduled to begin in January and will be evaluated for future use.
- Complete the implementation of the Incident Command System training as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- Implementation of paperless reporting and enhanced crime analysis intended to assist detectives and patrol officers in proactive crime prevention abilities.



Year in Review

- The department trained 16 of its members this year in Crisis Intervention. We included dispatchers for the first time in our training this year. We also trained 13 other people from various agencies across the state.
- We implemented the Daily Watch program this year which addresses traffic safety in neighborhoods and other places other than primary roads. We conducted 17 sobriety checkpoints in 2005 compared to 10 in 2004, and 19 license checkpoints this year compared to 4 in the previous year.
- We have added Alto, a trained explosives recognition dog to our K-9 Unit. Alto is a 4 ½ year old Belgian Malinois trained by US customs & Border Patrol who joined us in May of this year. He and his partner, Senior Police Officer Wes Campbell, completed training with Alto in June.
- We added an in-service driver training program to our schedule in 2005 and intend to increase this training to twice a year in 2006. With the cooperation and assistance of the county schools we also implemented a rapid response training scenario which was held this summer. We intend to increase and further develop this type of emergency response training for first responders.
- We have worked with the Fire and Rescue department to implement the beginning of the necessary Incident Command System training which included Public Safety employees from Roanoke City.
- We have added two Community Service Officers to our personnel count.

K9 Program

2005 brought the K9 Team another member, Alto. In May, the Department purchased Alto, a Belgian Malinois, who was trained by the U.S. Department of Customs. Alto and his partner, Officer W.D. Campbell attended a 6 week training course with the City of Roanoke Police Department's Master Trainer. After completing this training, the team was certified in the detection of explosives. Alto got to test out his skills while searching for some spent shell casings in an investigation into Shooting into an Occupied Dwelling. After alerting, detectives dug up the shell casings.

The Department's other two K9 teams had a busy year as well. K9 Lord switched handlers to Officer W.A. Breedlove. K9 Lord and Officer Breedlove found 15 pounds of marijuana and a large amount of cash. K9 Nero and Officer Schirmer had three suspect apprehensions without bites. Both teams combined for a total of 82 drug searches and 14 tracks.



The newest K9 Team:
Officer W.D. Campbell and K9 Alto



Accreditation

The Roanoke County Police Department is a nationally accredited law enforcement agency. The Department was first accredited in 1992, distinguishing itself as the first nationally accredited law enforcement agency in Southwestern Virginia. The Department voluntarily goes through an assessment of policies, procedures, equipment, facilities, and operations by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The Department was last accredited in November 2003 and is actively preparing for reaccreditation in 2006.

Being an accredited agency provides many benefits for the Police Department. Aside from being nationally recognized for excellence, the Department sees controlled liability costs, agency accountability and stronger defenses against lawsuits and complaints. Increased support from local government officials and the community is another benefit from accreditation. The Roanoke County Police Department has committed to maintaining a level of professionalism and dedication to the community it serves. This is shown through four successful accreditation periods.

Criminal Investigations Division

Year in Review

- Clearance rates were maintained well above the national average. Comparison of 2005 CID rates with most recent available national averages reveals:
 - CID clearance of violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault) is 62.5%, compared to national average of 46.3%
 - CID clearance of property crimes (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft) is 36.5% compared to national average of 16.5%
- Grant renewal was successful for funding of a Violent Crimes Against Women investigator. This position will be funded through 2007.
- During 2005, a detective attended the State Forensic Academy where he received advanced training in crime scene investigations. He was also trained in computer forensic examinations.
- Obtaining an additional detective for the Fraud Unit was not successful.

Crimes Against Women Unit

The Department assists female victims of violent crime under an ongoing Department of Criminal Justice Services V-STOP Grant. The Police Department has received this grant for the last 7 years. This grant has allowed the Department to assign one full-time detective to crimes such as sex crimes, stalking, domestic violence, threats, violation of protection orders and indecent exposure where the victim is female. This detective works closely with the Commonwealth Attorney's Victim/Witness Coordinator and other area resources. Educating the public about crimes against women is also one of the tasks assigned to the Unit.



Detective J.D. Clark poses with Lt. R.C. Mason, Sgt. T.L. Lisk, Chief Lavinder and Detective D.L. Flynn at graduation ceremonies for the 65th class of the Virginia Forensic Science Academy.

Criminal Investigations Division Goals for 2006

- Maintain a clearance rate for criminal investigations higher than the national average clearance rate.
- Enhance evidence collection and analysis in the field through design and acquisition of an improved and more versatile crime scene investigations vehicle.
- Improve ability to analyze case information and criminal intelligence in cooperation with the Vice Unit and Crime Analysis Unit.
- Work with the Crime Analysis Unit and Records Unit to improve the Department's crime analysis capabilities and its ability to investigate crimes through improved reporting.
- Improve staffing levels in CID through the addition of a Fraud Unit Detective, a General Investigations Detective, and a Detective assigned as a full-time Evidence Technician.

Crimes Investigated by CID	2004	2005	% Increase or Decrease
Abduction	11	8	-27.3%
Burglary	158	228	+44.3%
Check Crimes	372	312	-16.1%
Grand Larceny	124	139	+12.1%
Homicide	1	2	+100%
Larceny	54	74	+37%
Malicious Wounding	15	12	-20%
Rape	16	14	-12.5%
Robbery	5	11	+120%
Sex Crimes (other)	44	42	-4.5%
Suicides	6	5	-16.7%
Theft of Vehicle	61	34	-44.3%
White Collar Crimes	426	251	-41.1%
Other Offenses	225	149	-33.8%
Total	1518	1281	-15.6%

Services Division

Year in Review

- The Department, along with the Fire and Rescue Department and the Information and Technology Department, converted to the new CAD/RMS/Mobile Data system on November 01, 2005. This new system will provide better calls for service data for both the Police and Fire Departments.
- The Department started the implementation of Phase II of the E-911 wireless plan. When completed, communications officers will be instantly provided with the physical location of wireless callers. This advancement should aid the Department in sending help to those who are disoriented or are unable to speak into the phone.
- The Department's Crime Analyst position was transferred from the Professional Standards Unit to the Services Division. This change should allow the Crime Analyst to have faster and more complete access to the data needed to analyze crime trends and make projections of when and where crimes will be committed.

Communication Center

The Roanoke County Communication Center answers all 911 calls placed from telephones within Roanoke County. The Center is responsible for dispatching police, fire and rescue calls as needed. During the Fiscal Year 2004/2005, the Communication Center handled 41,023 emergency calls for service in addition to 135,802 non-emergency telephone calls. The Center also processed 8 million radio transmissions.

The Center is currently able to receive wireless 911 calls in "Phase II" format. New Computer Aided Dispatch equipment and software was installed and is currently up and running.

Goals for 2006

- Ensure the successful move of the Communications Center and Evidence Vault to the new Police Department building on Cove Road. The move will be complicated by the fact that the radio system will need to stay in constant service and that officers will need access to evidence during the move. The planning for this move will involve members of both the Police Department and the Department of Information Technology.
- Continue to update the vehicle fleet by replacing aging emergency vehicles. Examine ways to manage the fleet to ensure maximum value is extracted from vehicles assigned to the administrative and investigative functions.

Dial 911
For Emergencies